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American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005

Monthly Completion Report

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
Special Projects Section
(202) 682-8492/682-8518

Report Month: SEPTEMBER 1986

REPORT ON WELL COMPLETIONS IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

Wells actually completed in the current month may not be reported until several months later. The chart shown below illustrates the cumulative number of well completions for the current month and each of the eleven prior months, as now reported to the API. For comparison purposes, a corresponding curve describes the data, as then reported to the API, for the same twelve-month period a year ago.

These data are preliminary and subject to revision. The number of wells shown in the chart excludes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. The geographic distribution for wells and footage is not published on a monthly basis, but is available from the API's "Quarterly Completion Report."

Cumulative Number of Wells Reported as Completed
For Each of the Past 12 Months

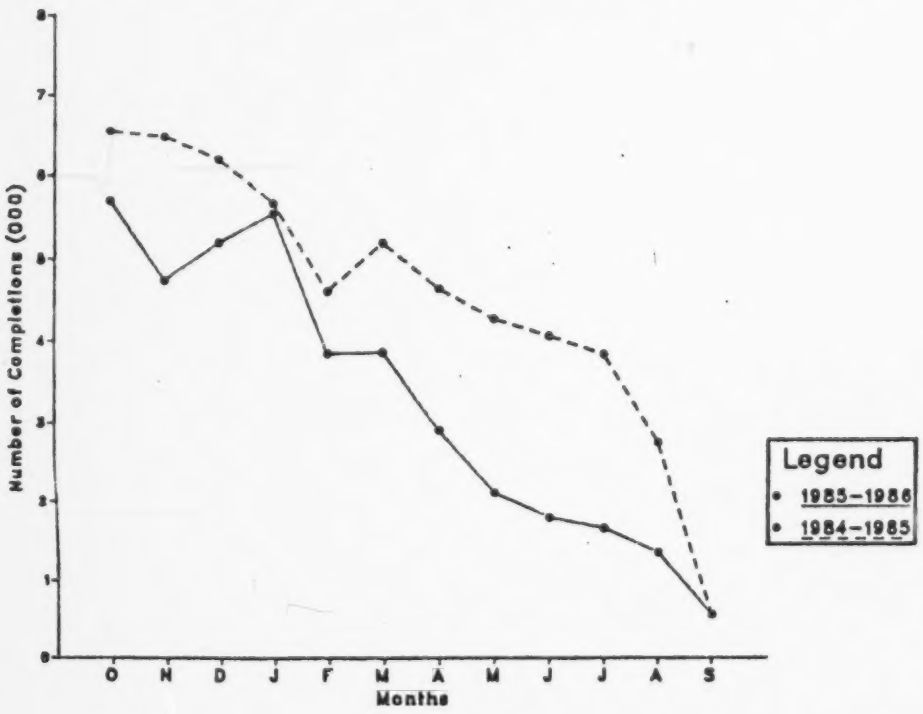

TABLE 1: CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF TOTAL WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES		TOTAL ALL WELLS[4]	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	11,993	50,892,432	3,875	22,632,035	7,777	39,838,937	23,645	113,363,404	24,006	114,691,923
1986: SEP	208	802,441	42	255,017	308	1,666,296	558	2,723,754	560	2,728,894
AUG	557	2,484,891	168	961,300	642	3,079,461	1,367	6,525,652	1,386	6,587,837
JUL	702	3,208,753	294	1,615,154	668	3,385,415	1,664	8,209,322	1,704	8,354,189
JUN	779	3,388,781	344	1,995,500	674	3,229,746	1,797	8,614,027	1,822	8,716,089
MAY	979	4,537,006	378	2,247,471	753	3,901,308	2,110	10,685,785	2,157	10,875,640
APR	1,497	6,790,049	519	3,243,502	895	4,527,866	2,911	14,561,417	2,959	14,757,575
MAR	2,092	9,008,747	615	3,759,245	1,150	5,699,522	3,857	18,467,514	3,903	18,615,541
FEB	2,155	9,249,451	616	3,703,291	1,074	6,010,194	3,845	18,962,936	3,904	19,194,308
JAN	3,024	11,422,313	899	4,851,555	1,613	8,339,129	5,536	24,612,997	5,611	24,861,850
TOTAL 1985	34,512	137,284,167	12,124	67,312,946	20,177	100,291,864	66,813	304,888,977	68,386	309,808,851
1985: DEC	2,642	10,766,089	838	4,758,155	1,717	8,877,720	5,197	24,401,964	5,272	24,669,980
NOV	2,452	9,798,625	819	4,742,152	1,468	7,335,318	4,739	21,876,095	4,809	22,138,776
OCT	2,857	11,355,985	1,145	5,885,598	1,688	8,236,194	5,690	25,477,777	5,780	25,796,350
SEP	2,704	10,379,044	1,021	5,356,030	1,641	8,050,087	5,366	23,785,161	5,453	24,030,528
AUG	3,189	12,233,286	1,077	5,808,453	1,850	8,789,093	6,116	26,830,832	6,208	27,095,308
JUL	2,989	11,124,034	1,048	5,788,191	1,743	8,214,648	5,780	25,126,873	5,933	25,554,041
JUN	2,946	11,014,712	992	5,333,814	1,601	7,556,469	5,439	23,904,995	5,582	24,352,726
MAY	2,771	11,456,226	886	4,976,685	1,616	8,073,477	5,273	24,506,388	5,465	25,085,438
APR	2,892	11,654,411	967	5,639,874	1,677	8,371,644	5,536	25,665,929	5,688	26,088,726
MAR	3,165	12,909,010	1,081	6,205,536	1,771	8,782,475	6,017	27,897,021	6,219	28,433,035
FEB	2,767	11,524,097	1,070	6,136,865	1,480	7,765,278	5,317	25,426,240	5,454	25,878,822
JAN	3,238	13,068,648	1,180	6,681,593	1,925	10,239,461	6,343	29,989,702	6,523	30,685,121
TOTAL 1984	43,293	165,146,971	14,568	80,149,575	24,741	117,357,663	82,602	362,654,209	84,776	368,339,029
1984: DEC	3,548	13,192,935	1,299	6,797,675	2,071	10,424,836	6,918	30,415,446	7,100	30,886,021
NOV	3,680	13,802,544	1,398	7,076,697	1,985	9,697,468	7,063	30,576,709	7,240	31,058,863
OCT	3,695	14,633,610	1,342	7,251,578	2,025	9,579,898	7,062	31,465,086	7,294	32,129,545
SEP	3,618	13,302,101	1,229	6,510,162	2,057	9,436,140	6,904	29,248,403	7,044	29,619,849
AUG	3,830	14,067,411	1,389	7,452,218	2,490	11,163,969	7,709	32,683,598	7,906	33,263,078
JUL	3,874	14,502,542	1,241	6,980,725	2,260	10,200,796	7,375	31,684,063	7,558	32,164,593
JUN	3,837	14,118,824	1,301	6,925,111	2,323	10,410,734	7,461	31,454,669	7,648	31,922,514
MAY	3,674	14,110,028	1,165	6,647,779	1,944	9,417,867	6,783	30,175,674	6,960	30,588,011
APR	3,210	12,080,954	857	5,327,560	1,706	8,399,709	5,773	25,808,223	5,973	26,270,108
MAR	3,372	13,494,178	1,032	6,412,787	1,784	8,899,092	6,188	28,806,057	6,365	29,241,062
FEB	3,387	13,417,776	1,125	6,166,809	1,803	8,833,072	6,315	28,417,657	6,473	28,852,564
JAN	3,568	14,424,068	1,190	6,600,474	2,293	10,894,082	7,051	31,918,624	7,215	32,342,821
TOTAL 1983	38,019	140,337,466	12,608	69,467,740	23,500	102,935,869	74,127	312,741,075	76,151	317,495,169
TOTAL 1982	40,128	152,751,442	17,147	99,112,943	25,782	121,943,680	83,057	373,808,065	85,289	379,087,358

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE II. CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF EXPLORATORY WELLS AND FOOTAGE DRILLED IN THE UNITED STATES BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR, AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 1986[1]

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS & DRY HOLES	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	716	4,405,364	426	2,939,299	3,481	20,298,174	4,623	27,642,837
1986: SEP	7	30,682	7	30,740	131	762,475	145	823,897
AUG	37	209,320	16	97,740	278	1,553,448	331	1,860,508
JUL	51	287,697	38	211,653	299	1,600,177	388	2,099,527
JUN	47	277,682	37	215,771	272	1,518,847	356	2,012,300
MAY	71	409,726	40	317,606	367	2,171,604	478	2,898,936
APR	93	651,707	55	466,271	403	2,328,687	551	3,446,665
MAR	109	734,902	68	539,338	511	2,932,195	688	4,206,435
FEB	116	727,249	71	516,467	489	3,149,384	676	4,393,100
JAN	185	1,076,399	94	543,713	731	4,281,357	1,010	5,901,469
TOTAL 1985	1,760	10,174,198	1,224	8,201,764	8,908	49,129,279	11,892	67,505,241
1985: DEC	145	851,668	79	526,845	838	4,754,541	1,062	6,133,054
NOV	108	637,817	86	639,892	668	3,668,500	862	4,946,209
OCT	145	803,938	85	489,497	765	4,068,462	995	5,361,897
SEP	121	653,333	72	492,108	732	3,942,143	925	5,087,584
AUG	172	1,010,106	95	616,958	811	4,234,059	1,078	5,861,123
JUL	138	792,066	90	585,897	742	3,895,236	970	5,273,199
JUN	129	657,974	111	798,326	676	3,408,419	916	4,864,719
MAY	153	883,722	123	779,966	679	3,787,959	955	5,451,647
APR	129	713,574	113	772,762	713	4,059,990	955	5,546,326
MAR	181	1,088,703	108	693,892	734	4,136,867	1,023	5,919,262
FEB	164	1,026,618	119	832,260	683	4,054,607	966	5,913,485
JAN	175	1,054,679	143	973,561	867	5,118,496	1,185	7,146,736
TOTAL 1984	2,314	12,511,969	1,558	9,801,189	11,002	58,227,910	14,874	80,541,068
1984: DEC	156	797,748	104	580,181	942	5,410,443	1,202	6,788,372
NOV	179	988,586	111	666,224	858	4,737,819	1,148	6,392,629
OCT	159	825,650	140	898,937	946	4,830,654	1,245	6,555,241
SEP	216	1,170,730	129	871,775	897	4,588,395	1,242	6,630,900
AUG	187	998,761	124	806,449	1,070	5,532,717	1,381	7,337,927
JUL	191	992,533	150	982,743	1,057	5,225,744	1,398	7,201,020
JUN	199	1,110,611	134	777,040	1,073	5,309,770	1,406	7,197,421
MAY	214	1,167,446	133	826,856	841	4,591,797	1,188	6,586,099
APR	155	901,620	99	678,757	754	4,074,151	1,008	5,654,528
MAR	216	1,200,913	152	1,035,415	743	4,181,409	1,111	6,417,737
FEB	206	1,163,415	150	889,126	811	4,441,382	1,167	6,493,923
JAN	236	1,193,956	132	787,686	1,010	5,303,629	1,378	7,285,271
TOTAL 1983	2,133	10,618,187	1,618	10,111,625	10,051	48,321,799	13,802	69,051,611
TOTAL 1982	2,486	13,509,134	2,132	14,616,499	11,214	60,246,579	15,832	88,372,212

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE III TOTAL NUMBER OF WELLS AND FOOTAGE ADDITIONS[1] BY COMPLETION MONTH AND YEAR REPORTED TO THE API DURING SEPTEMBER 1986

	OIL WELLS[2]		GAS WELLS[3]		DRY HOLES		TOTAL OIL & GAS AND DRY HOLES		TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[4] CURRENT MONTH	
	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE	WELLS	FOOTAGE
TOTAL 1986	893	3,639,307	488	2,398,643	724	3,590,632	2,105	9,628,582	2,135	9,711,577
1986: SEP	208	802,441	42	255,017	308	1,666,296	558	2,723,754	560	2,728,894
AUG	299	1,346,169	120	703,753	232	1,162,546	651	3,212,468	660	3,239,826
JUL	141	621,655	123	553,633	66	304,061	330	1,479,349	342	1,513,375
JUN	48	159,367	80	339,921	36	140,919	164	640,207	166	644,672
MAY	40	163,008	35	172,711	23	62,716	98	398,435	100	403,319
APR	37	168,815	26	135,493	15	83,387	78	387,695	80	393,955
MAR	34	115,401	28	117,854	20	95,960	82	329,215	82	329,215
FEB	47	133,002	17	68,595	14	48,720	78	250,317	78	250,317
JAN	39	129,449	17	51,666	10	26,027	66	207,142	67	208,004
TOTAL 1985	173	478,082	110	447,905	97	271,667	380	1,197,654	390	1,223,231
1985: DEC	31	90,874	18	63,694	12	40,022	61	194,590	62	202,470
NOV	20	51,337	14	56,649	5	12,747	39	120,733	41	122,578
OCT	23	45,295	12	38,038	11	41,297	46	124,630	47	129,972
SEP	15	39,488	13	57,705	13	33,592	41	130,785	46	139,245
AUG	12	36,189	9	45,599	6	11,907	27	93,695	27	93,695
JUL	14	45,596	4	12,065	22	61,456	40	119,117	40	119,117
JUN	12	29,002	3	15,880	4	13,501	19	58,383	19	58,383
MAY	10	22,896	7	34,044	9	22,297	26	79,237	27	81,287
APR	10	33,789	10	47,242	4	7,656	24	88,687	24	88,687
MAR	9	24,727	9	37,845	5	13,624	23	76,196	23	76,196
FEB	11	36,752	3	12,729	2	6,113	16	55,594	16	55,594
JAN	6	22,137	8	26,415	4	7,455	18	56,007	18	56,007
TOTAL 1984	57	156,359	40	152,157	48	141,958	145	450,474	150	470,854
1984: DEC	7	19,750	3	22,384	8	19,330	18	61,464	18	61,464
NOV	4	15,146	2	3,219	5	14,425	11	32,790	11	32,790
OCT	4	8,573	4	21,985	3	7,990	11	38,548	11	38,548
SEP	10	22,672	0	0	3	16,575	13	39,247	13	39,247
AUG	4	8,288	1	7,796	7	40,590	12	56,674	12	56,674
JUL	3	12,136	7	27,144	3	8,414	13	47,694	14	49,209
JUN	2	3,930	12	36,338	4	1,813	18	42,081	19	45,131
MAY	3	2,544	2	1,805	3	5,215	8	9,564	9	9,979
APR	6	26,488	0	0	5	9,284	11	35,772	12	43,472
MAR	5	9,701	1	1,316	3	7,687	9	18,704	10	26,404
FEB	3	10,692	5	18,580	2	5,247	10	34,519	10	34,519
JAN	6	16,439	3	11,590	2	5,388	11	33,417	11	33,417
TOTAL 1983	33	62,978	14	42,511	13	27,043	60	132,532	62	145,662
YRS PRIOR TO 1983	14	42,189	9	35,756	8	29,250	31	107,195	31	107,195
TOTAL WELLS REPORTED[5]	1,170	4,378,915	661	3,076,972	890	4,060,550	2,721	11,516,437	2,768	11,658,519

See footnotes on page 5.

TABLE I AND TABLE II:

1. The cumulative number of wells reported in this table is the total number of wells included in the API database for each of the months and years shown, as of September 26, 1986. These data are preliminary and subject to further revisions.

2. Includes multiple completion wells which produce oil from at least one zone, but may produce gas from one or more zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well.

3. Includes multiple completion wells which produce gas from all zones. A multiple completion well is counted as one well. Gas wells also include so-called condensate wells.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells. (Not applicable to Table II.)

TABLE III:

1. Total number of wells received by the API during the report month and classified by completion month and year. These wells are included in Tables I and II.

2. See footnote (2) above.

3. See footnote (3) above.

4. Includes stratigraphic and core tests and service wells.

5. Total wells reported are those received by the API for the report period August 30, 1986 through September 26, 1986. The sub-totals shown for each yearly period may not add up to the total wells reported for the period. Some wells, received during the report period, may have been completed in years prior to those shown in Table III.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In 1966 the American Petroleum Institute, in conjunction with other industry associations and federal and state agencies, agreed on a set of definitions for terms used in reporting statistical information. Included were the definitions for oil wells and gas wells, which have appeared as footnotes in the API's drilling publications since 1970. In most cases these definitions were adhered to.

The one exception to this was in the state of Ohio, where a substantial number of wells produce primarily gas along with relatively small amounts of oil. The Ohio Division of Oil and Gas classified these as "combination" wells. In reporting these wells to the API, the Ohio Oil and Gas Division developed a formula for classifying these combination wells as either oil or gas. Therefore, for the years 1970 through 1985, certain wells were classified as gas wells, which under the API definitions would have been classified as oil wells.

Petroleum Information Corporation, on the other hand, adhered to the definitions established, and thus reported these wells as oil wells. Thus, beginning in 1986, when PI was retained as the source for drilling information, wells which in the past would have been reported as gas wells now are being included in the oil well category.

This change will not be too apparent for the current report period since the reporting time lag for some areas tends to minimize the impact. However, as more 1986 data are reported to the API, the shift in well classification, from gas to oil, will become evident.

Therefore, the API has modified its data base and has changed the previously reported gas wells to oil wells to coincide with the new reporting basis. Thus, the April "Monthly Completion Report" shows the number of oil wells and gas wells for the current month and all prior months on the new basis.

1/ A well which produces oil from one zone, regardless of the number of productive gas zones, is classified as an oil well. A well which produces gas from one or more zones is classified as a gas well.

The January through March, 1986 "Monthly Completion Reports" also have been reclassified and they will be made available to Subscribers on request. If you wish to receive the three prior monthly reports please write to:

Drilling Statistics Section
American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005